IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for ~~of~~ processing a digital audio signal comprising the steps of:

[[a)]] providing a digital audio signal representing unimpaired audio information;

[[b)]] compressing and encrypting the said digital audio signal to produce a first compressed and encrypted audio signal, the audio information of which is substantially unimpaired compared to that of the said digital audio signal;

[[c)]] producing an unencrypted second audio signal; and

[[d)]] combining the ~~said~~ first and second audio signals to produce a combined signal comprising the ~~said~~ compressed and encrypted first audio signal and the unencrypted second audio signal.

2. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 1 wherein the digital audio signal is losslessly compressed to produce the ~~said~~ first audio signal.

3. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ~~said~~ first audio signal occurs as noise in the ~~said~~ combined signal.

4. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 3, wherein the step of combining the first signal and the second ~~signals~~signal comprises embedding the first signal as noise in the second signal.

5. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein the step of combining comprises appending at least part of the first signal to the ~~said~~ second signal.

6. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4,~~ wherein the step of producing the ~~said~~ second signal comprises impairing at least a portion of the digital signal.

7. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 5, wherein the step of producing the ~~said~~ second signal comprises combining the ~~said~~ digital signal with a third signal which impairs at least a portion of the digital signal.

8. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

modulating the ~~said~~ third signal; and

combining the modulated third signal with the ~~said~~ digital signal.

9. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the step of producing the first signal comprises:

compressing the digital signal; and

encrypting the compressed signal without substantially increasing the number of bits of the compressed digital signal.

10. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ second signal is a sampled digital signal, each sample having ~~most~~ more significant bits (~~hereinafter~~ MSBs) and less significant bits (~~hereinafter~~ LSBs).

11. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 10, wherein the digital signal has a ~~is in~~ fixed point format.

12. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the first signal is combined with the ~~said~~ second signal by replacing the LSBs of the ~~said~~ second signal with at least some of the bits of the first signal.

13. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 12, wherein a predetermined fixed number of LSBs of the ~~said~~ second signal are replaced by at least some of the bits of the first signal.

14. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 12, wherein, in the combined signal, the ratio of MSBs, [[(]]representing the said second signal[[)]], to LSBs, [[(]]representing the bits of the first signal[[)]], is variable.

15. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 14, wherein the ~~said~~ ratio is dependent on ~~the amount of~~ compression applied to the first digital signal.

16. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 12, ~~13, 14 or 15,~~ wherein the combined signal includes data indicating which bits of the combined signal are LSBs and which bits are MSBs.

17. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 16~~claim 10, further comprising the step of reducing ~~the~~ an amount of data in the ~~said~~ second signal.

18. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 17, comprising the step of reducing ~~the~~ a sampling rate of the ~~said~~ second signal.

19. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 18~~claim 10, further comprising providing a file containing the ~~said~~ first signal and a file containing the ~~said~~ second signal.

20. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 19, wherein ~~the~~ a ratio of MSBs, [[(]]representing the said second signal[[)]], to LSBs, [[(]]representing said first digital signal[[)]], is dependent on ~~the~~ a number of bits in the files of the first signal and a number of bits of the second signal.

21. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 19, wherein the bits of the first signal are distributed over samples of the second signal ~~in dependence~~ based on ~~the~~ a ratio of the total number of encrypted bits in the encrypted signal file to the total number of samples of the ~~said~~ second signal.

22. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 21, wherein the ~~said~~ ratio is approximated by an integer fraction M/N, and comprising the steps of:

selecting groups of N samples; and

distributing, over the N samples of each group, corresponding sets of M bits.

23. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

[[a)]] scaling ~~the~~ a value A of each of the N samples according to A'[X] = (A [X]/S) * S where: X is an ordinal numbering of the samples and equals 0 to N-1; and $S = 2^R$ where R is M/N; and

[[b)]] replacing A'[X] by A''[X] = A' [X] + V/S^X for X > 0, and

by A''[0] = A'[0] + mod S for X = 0,

where for each of X= N-1 to 0, V is replaced by $V-V/S^X$, V initially being the value of the M bits when X=N-1.

24. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ second signal is a sampled digital signal, each sample having most significant bits (~~hereinafter~~ MSBs) and less significant bits (~~hereinafter~~ LSBs), and comprising the step of dividing the ~~said~~ second signal into blocks each block comprising a plurality of samples.

25. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 24, wherein each ~~all the blocks~~ block of the ~~said~~ second signal ~~contain~~contains the same predetermined number of samples.

26. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~, further comprising the ~~step~~steps of:

analysing the signal level of the ~~said~~ second signal[[,]]; and

setting the number of samples per block ~~in dependence~~ based on signal level.

27. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 24, wherein the number of samples per block in the ~~said~~ second signal varies.

28. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

analysing the signal level of the said second signal[[,]]; and

setting the number of samples in a block ~~in accordance with~~ based on a function of the levels of the signal samples within the block.

29. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 28~~claim 24 , further comprising providing, in the ~~said~~ second signal, data indicating the boundaries of the blocks.

30. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 29, wherein, in each block, the first signal is combined with the ~~said~~ second signal by replacing the LSBs of the ~~said~~ second signal with bits of the first signal and the ratio of MSBs, [[(]]representing the said second signal[[)]], to LSBs, [[(]]representing the bits of the first signal[[)]], in each block is a function of the signal levels of the samples of the ~~said~~ second signal in the block.

31. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 30, wherein the ~~said~~ data indicating the block boundaries includes data indicating the number of samples in each block.

32. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, wherein the step of producing the first signal further comprises the steps of:

compressing and ~~then~~ encrypting the ~~said~~ digital audio signal, and

wherein at least the step of encrypting comprises:

selecting sections of the compressed digital audio signal[[,]];

separately encrypting each section[[,]]; and

~~further comprising the step of~~ providing data in the first signal indicating the section boundaries.

33. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 32, further comprising providing a file containing the ~~said~~ digital audio signal to be compressed and encrypted.

34. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

compressing the whole file; and

~~then~~ encrypting the ~~said~~ sections of the compressed file.

35. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

selecting sections of the file[[,]];

separately compressing and encrypting each section; and

providing each section with data at least identifying the section.

36. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 32 to 35~~claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

encrypting at least one section according to one encryption key[[,]];

encrypting at least one other section according to another key[[,]]; and

storing data indicating the correspondence between the sections and the keys.

37. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 36, wherein the ~~said~~ correspondence data is stored in the first digital signal.

38. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 32 to 37~~claim 32, wherein the ~~said~~ data indicating the section boundaries ~~identify~~ identifies the data included in the sections.

39. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 37~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of compressing at least part of the ~~said~~ second signal and wherein the ~~said~~ combining step comprises combining the first signal with the compressed second signal.

40. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 39, ~~when dependent on any one of claims 1 to 16,~~ wherein the ~~said~~ compressed second signal comprises auxiliary data space within the data structure thereof, and comprising the step of placing at least some of the bits of the first digital signal in the said auxiliary data space of the compressed second signal.

41. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 39 ~~or 40~~, wherein the second signal is compressed according to an MPEG standard.

42. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the step of producing the first digital signal comprises:

receiving the digital signal from a streaming source[[,]];

dividing the digital stream into segments each comprising a predetermined number of samples[[,]]; and

separately compressing and encrypting each segment.

43. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 42, further comprising:

encrypting all sections according to the same key or encrypting at least one section according to one encryption key, and at least one other section is encrypted according to another key; and

storing data indicating the correspondence between the sections and the keys.

44. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 43, wherein the ~~said~~ correspondence data is stored in the first digital signal.

45. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 42, ~~43 or 44,~~ wherein the first signal is combined with the ~~said~~ second signal by replacing, in samples of the second signal, the LSBs of the ~~said~~ second signal with the bits of the first signal.

46. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 45, wherein a predetermined fixed number of LSBs of a sample of the ~~said~~ second signal are replaced by the bits of the first signal.

47. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 46, wherein, in samples of the combined signal, the ratio of MSBs, ~~(~~representing the ~~said~~ second signal,~~)~~ to LSBs, ~~(~~representing the bits of the first signal,~~)~~ is variable.

48. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 47, wherein the ~~said~~ ratio is dependent on ~~the~~ an amount of compression applied to the first signal.

49. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim~~,~~ 45, ~~46, 47 or 48,~~ wherein the combined signal includes data indicating which bits of the combined signal are LSBs and which bits are MSBs.

50. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 45~~, 45, 46, 47, 48 or 49~~, further comprising appending at least part of the first digital signal to the ~~said~~ second signal.

51. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 42, ~~43 or 44,~~further comprising the steps of:

selecting groups of N samples; and

distributing over the N samples of each group corresponding sets of M bits of the first signal,

where the ratio M/N is an integer fraction.

52. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 51, further comprising the steps of

[[a)]] scaling ~~the~~a value A of each of the N samples according to A'[X] = (A [X]/S) * S where: X is an ordinal numbering of the samples and equals 0 to N-1; and $S = 2^R$ where R is M/N; and

[[b)]] replacing A'[X] by A''[X] = A' [X] + V/S^X for X > 0, and

by A''[0] = A'[0] + mod S for X = 0,

where for each of X= N-1 to 0, V is replaced by $V-V/S^X$, V initially being the value of the M bits when X=N-1.

53. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 1, further ~~any preceding claim~~ comprising the step of recording the ~~said~~ combined signal on a recording medium.

54. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 52~~claim 1, further comprising providing the ~~said~~ combined signal to a signal distribution system.

55. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 51~~claim 1, further comprising providing the ~~said~~ combined signal to a transmission system.

56. (currently amended) A computer program which when run on a suitable data processor causes ~~the~~ a processor to implement the method of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

57. (original) A storage medium storing a program according to claim 56.

58. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ arranged to execute ~~carry out~~ the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 55~~claim 1.

59. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for processing a digital signal comprising:

a first ~~an~~ input for receiving a digital audio signal representing complete and unimpaired audio information;

a compressor and encryptor arranged to compress and encrypt the ~~said~~ digital audio signal arranged to produce a compressed and encrypted first audio signal, the audio information of which is substantially unimpaired compared to that of the ~~said~~ digital audio signal;

a second ~~an~~ input for receiving an unencrypted second audio signal; and

a signal combiner arranged to combine the ~~said~~ first and the second audio signals to produce a combined signal comprising the ~~said~~ compressed and encrypted audio signal and the unencrypted second signal.

60. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 59, further comprising a first signal producer operable to produce the ~~said~~ digital audio signal representing unimpaired audio information.

61. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 59 ~~or 60~~, further comprising a second signal producer operable to produce the ~~said~~ unencrypted second audio signal.

62. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 61, wherein the second signal producer further comprises a signal impairer for impairing the ~~said~~ digital audio signal to produce the ~~said~~ second signal.

63. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 62, wherein the second signal producer comprises a ~~further~~ second combiner for combining the ~~said~~

digital audio signal with a ~~further~~ degradation signal ~~which~~ that degrades the ~~said~~ digital audio signal to produce the ~~said~~ second signal.

64. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~A method~~ according to claim 63, further comprising:

a modulator for modulating the ~~said~~ degradation ~~further~~ signal and

wherein the ~~further~~ second combiner is arranged to combine the modulated ~~further~~ degradation signal with the ~~said~~ digital audio signal to produce the ~~said~~ second signal.

65. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 64, wherein the ~~said~~ second signal is a sampled digital signal, each sample having most significant bits (~~hereinafter~~ MSBs) and less significant bits (~~hereinafter~~ LSBs) and wherein the ~~said~~ signal combiner is operable to combine the first signal with the ~~said~~ second signal by replacing the LSBs of the ~~said~~ second signal with bits of the first signal.

66. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 65, wherein the ~~said~~ signal combiner is arranged to control a ~~the~~ ratio of the number of LSBs to MSBs according to the compression ratio achieved by the ~~said~~ compressor.

67. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 65 ~~or 66~~, wherein the ~~said~~ signal combiner ~~is operable to append~~ is adapted to append at least part of the first digital signal to the ~~said~~ second signal.

68. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 59, ~~60, 61, 62, 63 or 64,~~ wherein the ~~said~~ signal combiner is arranged to distribute the bits of the first signal over samples of the second signal based ~~in dependence~~ on ~~the~~ a ratio of the total number of encrypted bits in the encrypted first audio signal to the total number of samples of the ~~said~~ second signal.

69. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 68, wherein the ~~said~~ ratio is approximated by an integer fraction M/N where M/N is less than the ~~said~~ ratio, and further comprising the ~~steps~~ step of:

selecting groups of N samples and distributing over the N samples of each group corresponding sets of M bits.

70. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 69, wherein the ~~said~~ signal combiner is arranged to implement the steps of:

~~a)~~ scaling a ~~the~~ value A of each of the N samples according to $A'[X] = (A[X]/S) * S$ where: X is an ordinal numbering of the samples and equals 0 to N-1; and $S = 2^R$ where R is M/N; and

~~b)~~ replacing $A'[X]$ by $A''[X] = A'[X] + V/S^X$ for $X > 0$, and

by $A''[0] = A'[0] + \text{mod } S$ for $X = 0$,

where for each of X= N-1 to 0, V is replaced by $V-V/S^X$, V initially being the value of the M bits when X=N-1.

71. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to ~~any one of claims 59 to 70,~~ claim 59, further comprising a ~~further~~ second compressor operable to compress the ~~said~~ second signal, the ~~said~~ signal combiner being arranged to combine the ~~said~~ first signal with the compressed second signal.

72. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 71, wherein the compression ratio of the ~~said further~~ second compressor is dependent on the compression ratio achieved by the ~~said, first-mentioned,~~ compressor.

73. (currently amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to ~~any one of claims 59 to 72,~~ claim 59, wherein the ~~said~~ compressor and encryptor ~~is~~ are arranged to produce a losslessly compressed and encrypted first audio signal.

74. (currently amended) A data structure, that is machine-interpretable, comprising:

a combination of a compressed and subsequently encrypted first digital audio signal, the audio information of which is substantially unimpaired;[[,]] and

an unencrypted second digital audio signal.

75. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 74, wherein the first digital audio signal is embedded in the second digital audio signal.

76. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 74, in which ~~the~~ MSBs of ~~the samples of the~~ a combined signal represent the second digital audio signal and ~~the~~ LSBs ~~of the samples~~ represent the first digital audio signal.

77. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 76, ~~including~~ further comprising data indicating ~~the~~ a boundary between the LSBs and the MSBs.

78. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 76 ~~or 77~~, wherein ~~the~~ a ratio of LSBs to MSBs per sample varies.

79. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 74, wherein the second signal is compressed according to a data format having auxiliary data space, and the first digital signal is in the auxiliary data space.

80. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 74, ~~75, 76, 77, 78 or 79~~, wherein at least part of the first digital signal is appended to the second signal.

81. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 74, wherein the data is arranged in blocks each block comprising a plurality of samples, the data structure including data indicating a number ~~the numbers~~ of samples in the blocks.

82. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to ~~any one of claims 74 to 81, including~~ claim 74, further comprising data identifying at least one encryption key used to encrypt the first digital audio signal.

83. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 81 ~~or 82~~, wherein the blocks comprise groups of N samples and sets of M bits of the first signal are distributed over the N samples of each group where the ratio M/N is an integer fraction.

84. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to claim 83, comprising data indicating the blocks.

85. (currently amended) The [[A]] data structure according to ~~any one of claims 74 to 84~~claim 74, wherein the second digital audio signal is an impaired version of the audio signal represented by the digital signal.

86. (currently amended) A method of recovering a first signal from a combination of a first, compressed and encrypted, digital audio signal combined with a second signal, the audio information of the first audio signal being substantially unimpaired, the method comprising the steps of:

separating the first signal from the combination[[,]];

decrypting the separated first signal[[,]]; and

decompressing the decrypted first signal to recover the substantially unimpaired audio information thereof.

87. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 86, wherein the first signal is represented by Less Significant Bits (LSBs) of the combined signal and the second signal is represented by ~~the~~ Most Significant Bits (MSBs) of the combined signal and further comprising the step of discarding the MSBs to separate the first signal from the second signal.

88. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 87, wherein the first signal is appended to the second signal and further comprising the step of discarding the second signal.

89. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 86, wherein the second signal is a compressed signal, compressed according to a format which has auxiliary data space in which the first signal is placed, and further comprising the step of extracting the first signal from the ~~said~~ auxiliary data space.

90. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 86, wherein the first and second signals are combined ~~by the method of claim 52~~, wherein the recovering method comprises, for each group of N samples, the steps of setting X = 0, setting V = 0, and replacing V by V= V + A'[X] modS*S^X for each of X = 0 to N-1.

91. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for recovering a digital signal, the digital signal being compressed and encrypted and combined with a second signal, the apparatus comprising:

a separator for separating the compressed and encrypted signal from the second signal[[,]];

a decryptor for decrypting the separated signal; and

a decompressor for decompressing the decrypted signal.

92. (currently amended) A program which when run on a suitable data processor implements the method ~~of any one of claims 86 to 90~~claim 86.

93. (original) A storage medium storing a program according to claim 92.

94. (currently amended) A processing apparatus ~~Apparatus arranged~~ adapted to implement the method of ~~any one of claims 86 to 90~~claim 86.

95. (currently amended) A ~~In a~~ system comprising at least first and second processors, the system being adapted to execute a method of transferring a digital signal representing content from the first processor to the second processor, the method comprising the steps of:

using the first processor to implement the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 58~~ claim 1 to produce the combined signal and to associate an identifier with the combined signal for identifying the combined signal;

storing the ~~said~~ identifier;

transferring the combined signal to the second processor;

at the ~~said~~ second processor, deriving the ~~said~~ identifier associated with the combined signal;

~~subject to predetermined conditions being satisfied,~~ transferring, to the second processor, at least one key associated with the said identifier, based on one or more predetermined conditions, for decrypting the encrypted first signal; and

utilizing ~~using~~ the second processor to separate the first signal from the second signal and to restore the first signal.

96. (currently amended) ~~In a~~ A system comprising a transaction server and at least first and second clients, the system being adapted to execute a method of transferring a digital signal representing content from the first client to the second client, the method comprising the steps of:

using the first client to implement the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 58~~ claim 1 to produce the combined signal and associating an identifier with the combined signal for identifying the combined signal;

providing, to the transaction server, the identifier and at least one key for decrypting the encrypted signal and storing, in the transaction server, the ~~said~~ identifier and the ~~said~~ at least one key;

transferring the combined signal to the second client;

deriving the ~~said~~ identifier associated with the combined signal;

transferring the identifier from the second client to the transaction server;

~~subject to predetermined conditions being satisfied,~~ transferring from the transaction server to the second client at least one key associated with the said identifier, based on one or more predetermined conditions, for decrypting the encrypted first signal; and

using the second client to separate the first signal from the second signal, and ~~use~~ using the decryption key decrypt the first signal, decompress the decrypted to restore the digital signal.

97. (currently amended) A method of processing a digital signal comprising the steps of:

providing a first digital signal representing first information[[,]];

providing a second digital signal[[,]]; and

embedding the first signal in the second signal by replacing Less Significant Bits (LSBs) of the second signal by bits of the first signal and retaining ~~the~~ More Significant Bits (MSBs) of the second signal,

whereby the first signal occurs as noise in the second signal.

98. (currently amended) A method of processing a digital signal comprising the steps of:

providing a first digital signal representing first information[[,]];

providing a second digital signal[[,]]; and

embedding the first signal in the second signal by selecting groups of N samples and distributing over the N samples of each group corresponding sets of M samples of the first signal, where the ratio M/N is an integer fraction.

99. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 98, further comprising the steps of:

~~a)~~ scaling ~~the~~ a value A of each of the N samples according to $A'[X] = (A[X]/S) * S$ where: X is an ordinal numbering of the samples and equals 0 to N-1; and $S = 2^R$ where R is M/N; and

~~b)~~ replacing $A'[X]$ by $A''[X] = A'[X] + V/S^X$ for $X > 0$, and

by $A''[0] = A'[0] + \text{mod } S$ for $X = 0$,

where for each of X= N-1 to 0, V is replaced by $V-V/S^X$, V initially being the value of the M bits when X=N-1.

100. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 97, ~~98 or 99~~ wherein the first signal is a compressed signal.

101. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 97, ~~98, 99 or 100,~~ wherein the first signal is an encrypted signal.

102. (currently amended) A method of processing a digital signal comprising the steps of:

providing a first digital signal representing substantially unimpaired first information, the first signal being a compressed and/or encrypted signal[[,]];

providing an unencrypted second digital signal representing second information, and which is compressed according to a compression format having auxiliary data space[[,]]; ~~and~~

combining the first signal comprising the ~~said~~ substantially unimpaired first information with the second signal[[,]]; and

embedding at least part of the first signal being embedded in the ~~said~~ auxiliary data space of the second signal.

103. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 102, wherein part of the first signal is appended to the second signal.

104. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 95 to 103~~ claim 95, wherein the first signal represents [[a]] computer program code.

105. (currently amended) The [[A]] method according to ~~any one of claims 95 to 104~~claim 95, wherein the second signal is an audio signal.

106. (currently amended) An apparatus adapted to execute the method of ~~one of claims 95 to 105~~claim 95.

107. (currently amended) A computer program which, when run on a suitable computer or computer system, implements the method of ~~one of claims 95 to 105~~claim 95.

108. (original) A recording medium on which the computer program of claim 107 is recorded.

109. (canceled)

110. (canceled)